



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kanako HONDA

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Group Art Unit: 2625

Application No.: 09/692,101

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Examiner: Barry Choobin

Filed: October 20, 2000

Technology Center 2600

Docket No.: 107641

For: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS, INFORMATION CAPTURING APPARATUS, INFORMATION INTEGRATION APPARATUS, CONTROLLER, OBJECT DETECTOR, AND INFORMATION PROCESSING METHOD

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the July 29, 2004 Office Action, the period for response being extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks. Claims 1-35 are pending in this application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 3 and 24-25 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 6-17, 19, 21-22, 29 and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, the reliability storage section claimed in the current invention, is clearly defined by the specification at, for example, page 34, lines 1-13. As described in the specification, the reliability storage section stores a predetermined first reliability which is the reliability of the first parameter assigned to respective pixel on the basis of detection information. The first reliability is derived by a first reliability derivation section, as clearly

recited in the claims. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that the term "reliability storage section" is definite and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2, 4-23 and 26-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Panter (U.S. Patent No. 5,751,832) in view of Stam et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,728,393). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Specifically, neither Panter nor Stam, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest an information processing apparatus that includes a parameter conversion section for determining a first parameter and a parameter integration section for integrating the first parameter and for assigning a second parameter, the second parameter being a result of integration of the first parameter, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claims 27-35.

Panter teaches an apparatus and method for aiming a vehicle headlight to a standard image pattern including a frame movable relative to the vehicle (Abstract). However, as admitted by the Patent Office (Office Action, page 3, lines 1-3), Panter does not disclose a parameter integration section for integrating the first parameter and for assigning a second parameter as a result of integration of the first parameter.

Stam teaches a system and method of automatically controlling vehicle headlamps including an image sensor and a controller to generate headlamp control signals (Abstract). Moreover, Stam teaches integrating an exposed image and generating an output signal on the basis of the exposed image (col. 15, lines 25-29). Accordingly, a combination of Stam and Panter would result in Stam integrating the exposed image, not integrating a first parameter generated by Panter such as the intensity magnitude value (col. 12, lines 30-33). This is because the exposure that is integrated by Stam is different from the intensity magnitude that is converted by Panter since the exposure that is integrated by Stam is not the result of a

conversion by Panter, but is simply the result of exposing the image in Stam to radiation. As such, any combination of Panter and Stam would not result in an information processing apparatus that includes a parameter conversion section for determining a first parameter and a parameter integration section for integrating the first parameter that was converted by the parameter conversion section.

Thus, because it would not have been obvious to combine Stam and Panter to arrive at the claimed invention, independent claims 1, 27-28, 30 and 35, and their dependent claims, are patentable over a combination of Stam and Panter. As such, withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Moreover, independent claims 29 and 31-34 are rejected over a combination of Stam and Panter because the Examiner interpretation of a reliable storage section for storing corresponds to Col. 2, lines 14-32 of Panter (Office Action, page 4, lines 6-7). However, the section of Panter relied on by the Examiner to interpret the reliability storage section claimed in the current invention does not teach the storage of a degree of first reliability assigned to a single pixel which corresponds to the degree of reliability of the first parameter assigned to the pixel on the basis of detection information output from a sensor. The section of Panter relied on by the Examiner merely teaches a processor means that stores standard image patterns, generates correction signals supplied to an adjusting means, the adjusting means being responsive to correction signals for adjusting the position of the headlight mounting frame (Col. 2, lines 14-32). Accordingly, Panter does not disclose or suggest a reliability storage section that stores a degree of reliability of a parameter assigned to respective pixels, as recited in the claims.

Further, Stam fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies in Panter in disclosing or rendering obvious a reliability storage section. Accordingly, any combination of Stam and Panter would not result in an information processing apparatus that includes a reliability

storage section for storing predetermined first reliability of the first parameter assigned to each pixel.

Thus, because it would not have been obvious to combine Stam and Panter to arrive at the claimed invention, claims 6-17, 19, 21-22, 29 and 31-34 are patentable over a combination of Stam and Panter. As such, withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-35 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Tarik M. Nabi
Registration No. 55,478

JAO:TMN/tje

Date: November 3, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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